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PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE
UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON
ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
Fourth session
New York, 2 March-3 April 1992
Item 1 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Annotated provisional agenda

Section I of the present document contains the provisional agenda for the fourth session, as approved by the Preparatory Committee at its third session (decision 3/32), the annotations to the provisional agenda and the proposed programme of work of the Preparatory Committee. Section II contains the provisional agenda for the fourth session of Working Group I, as approved by the Preparatory Committee at its third session (decision 3/20), the annotations to the provisional agenda and the proposed programme of work of the Group. Section III contains the provisional agenda for the fourth session of Working Group II, as approved by the Preparatory Committee at its third session (decision 3/24), the annotations to the provisional agenda and the proposed programme of work of the Group. Section IV contains the provisional agenda for the third session of Working Group III, as approved by the Preparatory Committee at its third session (decision 3/30), the annotations to the provisional agenda and the proposed programme of work of the Group.

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I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

A. Provisional agenda of the Preparatory Committee

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

2. Preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development on the basis of General Assembly resolution 44/228 and taking into account other relevant General Assembly resolutions:

   (a) Activities of the Conference secretariat;

   (b) Recent actions of intergovernmental and other bodies of relevance to the preparatory process;

   (c) Cross-sectoral issues;

   (d) Reports of the Working Groups.

3. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee to the Conference.

Annotations

Item 1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

1. By resolution 44/228, the General Assembly decided to convene the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 in Brazil and, inter alia, to establish the Preparatory Committee for the Conference open to all States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies, with the participation of observers, in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly. It further decided that the Preparatory Committee should hold its fourth session at United Nations Headquarters.

2. At its third session, held at Geneva from 12 August to 4 September 1991, the Preparatory Committee adopted the provisional agenda for its fourth session (decision 3/32). At the same session, the Preparatory Committee, by its decision 3/31, decided, inter alia:

(a) That its fourth session should be designated as a negotiating session. In consequence, no general discussions on issues or reports would be held. The discussion would focus on proposals and negotiating texts;

(b) That the bulk of the work of the session should be conducted through the mechanism of informal consulations with interpretation facilities;

(c) That plenary meetings would be held throughout the session. The discussion of cross-sectoral issues would begin during the first week, starting with financial resources and the transfer of technology, and time would be allocated to the negotiation of those issues with a view to reaching a final agreement before the end of the session;

(d) That Working Groups I and II would begin their meetings during the second week;

(e) That Working Group III would begin its work during the first week to discuss the Earth Charter/Rio de Janeiro Declaration on Environment and Development and the question of institutions.

3. At its organizational session, held at United Nations Headquarters from 5 to 16 March 1990, the Preparatory Committee elected Tommy Koh (Singapore) Chairman of the Committee. It elected 39 Vice-Chairmen representing the following States:

Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Barbados, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Djibouti, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mexico, Mozambique, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Senegal, Sweden, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire and Zambia.

The Preparatory Committee also designated Brazil to serve as an ex officio Vice-Chairman in accordance with General Assembly resolution 44/228, section II, paragraph 4. At the same session, the Committee elected Ahmed Djoghlaf (Algeria) Rapporteur.

4. At its second session, held at Geneva from 18 March to 5 April 1991, the Preparatory Committee elected the representatives of Norway and Belarus Vice-Chairmen, following the resignation of the representatives of Sweden and Czechoslovakia.

5. At its organizational session, the Preparatory Committee decided to establish two open-ended working groups which would meet in conjunction with the substantive sessions of the Committee, at the same venue, and submit progress reports to the Committee on their work. Each of the working groups would assist the Preparatory Committee in fulfilling its mandate in accordance with General Assembly resolution 44/228 and other relevant General Assembly resolutions.

6. At its first session, held at Nairobi from 6 to 31 August 1990, the Preparatory Committee elected Bo Kjellén (Sweden) Chairman of Working Group I and Bukar Shaib (Nigeria) Chairman of Working Group II. It decided that the Chairmen of the Working Groups would serve as ex officio members of the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee.

7. At its organizational session, the Preparatory Committee decided to deal, in accordance with the relevant paragraphs of General Assembly resolution 44/228, with legal, institutional and all related matters in an open-ended working group to be set up at an appropriate time (see A/44/48, para. 56).

8. At its second session, the Preparatory Committee adopted decision 2/3 on the establishment of Working Group III on legal, institutional and all related matters. The decision, inter alia, set out the terms of reference of the Working Group and directed it to start its work during the second session. At the same session, the Preparatory Committee elected Bedrich Moldan (Czechoslovakia) Chairman of Working Group III. It also decided that he would serve as an ex officio member of the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee.

9. At its organizational session, the Preparatory Committee adopted a resolution on the organization of its work, in which it stressed that environmental and developmental issues should be dealt with in an integrated manner, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 44/228.

10. With regard to the conduct of business of the Preparatory Committee, it may be recalled that rule 161 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly provides that "the rules relating to the procedure of committees of the General Assembly, as well as rules 45 and 60, shall apply to the procedure of any subsidiary organ unless the Assembly or the subsidiary organ decides otherwise". Accordingly, the proceedings of the Preparatory Committee are governed by rule 161.

Accreditation of non-governmental organizations

11. At its second session, the Preparatory Committee decided on a procedure for determining non-governmental organizations' competence and relevance to the work of the Preparatory Committee (decision 2/1). In decision 2/2, the Preparatory Committee decided to approve 190 non-governmental organizations for accreditation.

12. At its third session, the Preparatory Committee decided to approve 164 non-governmental organizations for accreditation (decision 3/1). The Preparatory Committee will need to consider a list of additional non-governmental organizations being proposed for accreditation (A/CONF.151/PC/L.28/Add.7 and 8).

Opening of the session, meeting rooms and registration

13. The fourth session of the Preparatory Committee will open at 3 p.m. on Monday, 2 March 1992, at United Nations Headquarters. The Bureau of the Committee will meet at 10.30 a.m.

14. In accordance with decision 3/31, plenary meetings and the meetings of Working Group III will begin during the first week; Working Groups I and II will begin their meetings during the second week. Meetings will take place in Conference Rooms 1 and 4.

15. The registration booth will be located at the visitor's entrance to Headquarters (First Avenue and 47th Street).

Item 2. Preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development on the basis of General Assembly resolution 44/228 and taking into account other relevant General Assembly resolutions

16. The Preparatory Committee will have before it the report of the Secretary-General of the Conference containing an overview of national reports.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference containing an overview of national reports (A/CONF.151/PC/98)

(a) Activities of the Conference secretariat

17. The Preparatory Committee will have before it the report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on the activities of the Conference secretariat. In decision 3/2, the Preparatory Committee decided on the structure and organization of Agenda 21. The Preparatory Committee will have before it a report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on the structure of Agenda 21.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on the activities of the Conference secretariat (A/CONF.151/PC/97)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on the structure of Agenda 21 (A/CONF.151/PC/100)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference containing an overview of Agenda 21 and implementation mechanisms (A/CONF.151/PC/100/Add.1)

Proposal submitted by the delegation of China (A/CONF.151/PC/86)

Position paper submitted by the European Community and its member States on Agenda 21 (A/CONF.151/PC/90)

(b) Recent actions of intergovernmental and other bodies of relevance to the preparatory process

18. The Preparatory Committee will be provided with information on recent actions taken by intergovernmental bodies within the United Nations system and on other intergovernmental meetings of relevance to the work of the Preparatory Committee.

Documentation

Report of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on the Arab Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development, held at Cairo from 10 to 12 September 1991 (A/CONF.151/PC/99)*

Note by the Secretary-General of the Conference transmitting the report of the World Health Organization Commission on Health and the Environment (A/CONF.151/PC/111)*

Note by the Secretary-General of the Conference transmitting the report of the International Conference on Water and the Environment (Dublin Conference) (A/CONF.151/PC/112)

Note by the Secretary-General of the Conference transmitting the report of the intergovernmental meeting of designated experts on land-based sources of marine degradation and coastal activities (A/CONF.151/PC/113)*

Note by the Secretary-General of the Conference transmitting the recommendations of relevant meetings on women in environment and development (A/CONF.151/PC/114)*

Note by the Secretary-General of the Conference transmitting the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency on the implementation of the code of practice on international transboundary movement of radioactive wastes (A/CONF.151/PC/115)*

Note by the Secretary-General of the Conference transmitting the report of the United Nations Environment Programme on illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes (A/CONF.151/PC/116)*

Note by the Secretary-General of the Conference transmitting the report of the United Nations Environment Programme on desertification and the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification (A/CONF.151/PC/117)*

Report on the activities of the Sahara/Sahel observatory (A/CONF.151/PC/118)

Note by the Secretary-General of the Conference drawing attention to the report entitled "Solar energy: a strategy in support of environment and development" (A/CONF.151/PC/119)

Note by the Secretary-General of the Conference drawing attention to the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187 (A/CONF.151/PC/120)

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* The document will be made available only in the language(s) of submission.

(c) Cross-sectoral issues

19. At its third session, the Preparatory Committee requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to integrate fully development considerations and needs and realities, in particular of the developing countries, in all Agenda 21 programme documents, taking into account the close relationship between development and the environment (decision 3/2). Pursuant to decision 3/2 and other relevant decisions of the Preparatory Committee at its third session, the Committee will have before it a series of reports on a number of cross-sectoral issues containing options for Agenda 21.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on the structure of Agenda 21 (A/CONF.151/PC/100)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference containing an overview of Agenda 21 and implementation mechanisms (A/CONF.151/PC/100/Add.1)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on combating poverty, changing consumption patterns, and demographic dynamics and sustainability (A/CONF.151/PC/100/Add.2)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on international policies to accelerate sustainable development in developing countries, and related domestic policies (A/CONF.151/PC/100/Add.3)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on the protection and promotion of human health (A/CONF.151/PC/100/Add.5)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on education, public awareness and training (A/CONF.151/PC/100/Add.6)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on promoting sustainable human settlement development (A/CONF.151/PC/100/Add.7)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on the integration of environment and development in decision-making (A/CONF.151/PC/100/Add.8)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on the transfer of environmentally sound technology (A/CONF.151/PC/100/Add.9)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on science for sustainable development (A/CONF.151/PC/100/Add.10)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on national mechanisms and international cooperation for capacity-building (A/CONF.151/PC/100/Add.11)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on information for decision-making (A/CONF.151/PC/100/Add.12)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on strengthening the role of major groups (A/CONF.151/PC/100/Add.13)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on financial resources and mechanisms (A/CONF.151/PC/101)

(d) Reports of the Working Groups

20. In the resolution adopted by the Preparatory Committee at its organizational session (see A/44/48, para. 56), the Preparatory Committee decided, inter alia, that the Working Groups should submit progress reports to the Committee on their ongoing work. The Preparatory Committee will have before it the reports of Working Groups I, II and III.

Item 3. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee to the Conference

21. The Preparatory Committee may wish to submit the report on its fourth session to the Conference.

B. Proposed programme of work of the Preparatory Committee

First week (2-7 March)

Monday		
a.m.		Meeting of the Bureau
p.m.	Item 1	Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters
Tuesday		
a.m.	Item 2 (c)	Informal consultations: Financial resources
p.m.	Item 2 (c)	Informal consultations: Transfer of technology
Wednesday		
a.m.	Item 2 (c)	Informal consultations: Financial resources
p.m.	Item 2 (c)	Informal consultations: Transfer of technology
Thursday		
a.m.	Item 2 (a)	Informal consultations: Structure of and overviews on Agenda 21
p.m.	Item 2 (c)	Informal consultations: Financial resources
Friday		
a.m.	Item 2 (a)	Informal consultations: Structure of and overviews on Agenda 21
p.m.	Item 2 (c)	Informal consultations: Transfer of technology
Saturday		
a.m.	Item 2 (c)	Informal consultations: Financial resources
a.m.	Item 2 (c)	Informal consultations: Transfer of technology

Second week (9-14 March)

Monday

Evening		Informal consultations: Transfer of technology

Tuesday

p.m.		Informal consultations: Financial resources

Wednesday

a.m.		Informal consultations: Transfer of technology
Evening		Informal consultations: Role of major groups

Thursday

p.m.	Item 2 (c)	Informal consultations: Role of major groups

Friday

Evening	Item 2 (c)	Informal consultations: Role of major groups

Saturday

a.m.	Item 2 (c)	Informal consultations: Role of major groups

Third week (16-20 March)

Monday

a.m.	Item 2 (c)	Informal consultations: Poverty and sustainability
p.m.	Item 2 (c)	Informal consultations: Poverty and sustainability

Tuesday

Evening	Item 2 (c)	Informal consultations: Poverty and sustainability

Wednesday

a.m.	Item 2 (c)	Informal consultations: Sustainable development
a.m.	Item 2 (c)	Informal consultations: Human settlements
p.m.	Item 2 (c)	Informal consultations: Sustainable development
p.m.	Item 2 (c)	Informal consultations: Human settlements

Thursday

Evening	Item 2 (c)	Informal consultations: Sustainable development

Friday

p.m.	Item 2 (c)	Informal consultations: Integrating environment and development in decision-making

Saturday

a.m.	Item 2 (c)	Informal consultations: Integrating environment and development in decision-making

Fourth week (23-27 March)

Monday

p.m.		Informal consultations: Outstanding issues

Tuesday

a.m.		Informal consultations: Outstanding issues
a.m.		Informal consultations: Outstanding issues
p.m.		Informal consultations: Outstanding issues
p.m.		Informal consultations: Outstanding issues

Wednesday		
	p.m.	Informal consultations: Outstanding issues
Thursday		
	a.m.	Informal consultations: Outstanding issues
	a.m.	Informal consultations: Outstanding issues
	Evening	Informal consultations: Outstanding issues
	Evening	Informal consultations: Outstanding issues
Friday		
	a.m.	Informal consultations: Outstanding issues
	a.m.	Informal consultations: Outstanding issues
	Evening	Informal consultations: Outstanding issues
	Evening	Informal consultations: Outstanding issues

II. PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK OF WORKING GROUP I

A. Provisional agenda of Working Group I

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

2. Protection of the atmosphere:

   (a) Climate change;

   (b) Ozone depletion;

   (c) Transboundary air pollution.

3. Land resources:

   (a) Deforestation;

   (b) Soil loss;

   (c) Desertification and drought.

4. Conservation of biological diversity.

5. Environmentally sound management of biotechnology.

6. Adoption of the report of Working Group I.

Annotations

Item 1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

22. By decision 3/20, the Preparatory Committee approved the draft provisional agenda for the fourth session of Working Group I, in accordance with the resolution adopted by the Preparatory Committee at its organizational session, in particular paragraphs 8 and 9 (see A/44/48, para. 56).

23. The Bureau of Working Group I comprises the following officers: Chairman: Bo Kjellén (Sweden); Vice-Chairmen: Shinichi Isashiki (Japan), Charles A. Liburd (Guyana) and Mohamed Mahmoud Ould El Ghaouth (Mauritania); Rapporteur: Gantcho Gantchev (Bulgaria).

Item 2. Protection of the atmosphere

24. In decision 3/14, the Preparatory Committee noted that the programme areas contained in document A/CONF.151/PC/WG.I/L.25/Rev.2 on industry, agriculture and forestry, consumption patterns and lifestyles, and uncertainties with regard to the atmosphere had not been considered in detail during that session and therefore negotiation of those programme areas would

take place at the fourth session. It was understood, however, that the final agreement on the contents of that document would depend on the satisfactory outcome of the negotiation of Agenda 21 as a whole. In the same decision, the Preparatory Committee requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to submit to it at its fourth session proposals for basis-for-action objectives and activities for the above-mentioned programme areas, and to integrate in the proposals provisions for means of implementation, in accordance with Preparatory Committee decision 3/2.

(a) Climate change

25. In decision 3/13, the Preparatory Committee requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to continue to follow the ongoing processes related to climate change in order to ensure that the relevant results were reflected in the work of the Preparatory Committee, and also requested him, without duplicating or pre-empting the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change, to continue to follow the work of that Committee and to keep that Committee informed about the interconnections between climate change and other environment and development issues as they emerged from the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in particular the elaboration of Agenda 21.

(b) Ozone depletion

26. In decision 1/12, the Preparatory Committee requested the Secretary-General of the Conference, in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme, to report to the Preparatory Committee on the effectiveness of the implementation of the provisions relating to financial cooperation and transfer of technology to developing countries of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, as amended by the Second Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, held in London from 27 to 29 June 1990.

(c) Transboundary air pollution

27. At the third session, the Working Group held a general discussion on the question of transboundary air pollution; no specific decision was taken. The question will be considered further at the present session.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on protection of the atmosphere (A/CONF.151/PC/100/Add.14)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference containing a compilation of the views of Governments on the atmosphere (A/CONF.151/PC/107)

Proposal on protection of the atmosphere: options for Agenda 21, submitted by the Chairman (A/CONF.151/PC/WG.I/L.25/Rev.2)

Item 3. Land resources

28. In decision 3/17, the Preparatory Committee noted that, in document A/CONF.151/PC/WG.I/CRP.12/Rev.1, the section on protection and management of fragile ecosystems required further elaboration and that it had been agreed to develop separate programmes with regard to all mountains of the world; it further noted that the section on an integrated approach to planning and management of land resources required further elaboration and requested that the views expressed by Governments and proposals submitted by delegations be incorporated.

29. The Preparatory Committee decided to revert to those issues and to its final consideration of land resources in the general context of Agenda 21 at its fourth session.

(a) Deforestation

30. In decision 3/15, the Preparatory Committee decided that the comments or additions on the issue of deforestation submitted by Governments to the Chairman during the third session would be included in a revision to document A/CONF.151/PC/WG.I/CRP.14/Rev.2, which would be considered at the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee.

31. The Preparatory Committee invited Governments to submit to the secretariat of the Conference further proposals on forests for Agenda 21, which proposals and the views expressed at the third session of the Preparatory Committee would be taken into account in a document to be prepared by the secretariat, and requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to integrate in the proposals provisions for means of implementation in accordance with Preparatory Committee decision 3/2.

32. The Preparatory Committee also decided that, at its fourth session, negotiations would take place on a set of authoritative principles on the management, conservation and sustainable development of forests, and that a decision on the contents of Agenda 21 with regard to forests should be made, taking into account the above-mentioned secretariat document.

(b) Soil loss

33. At the third session the Working Group held a general discussion on the question of soil loss; no specific decision was taken. The question will be considered further at the present session.

(c) Desertification and drought

34. In decision 3/16, the Preparatory Committee noted that there was broad agreement on the content of document A/CONF.151/PC/WG.I/L.29 and the annex to the decision, in particular with regard to the broad objectives and programme areas, and requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to elaborate further proposals for action on the subject of desertification and drought,

taking into account relevant new developments, in particular within the framework of the United Nations Environment Programme, it being understood that the United Nations system needed to give higher priority to desertification; it also invited the Secretary-General of the Conference to give detailed proposals on the means and timing of implementing the programmes agreed upon, taking into account Preparatory Committee decision 3/2.

35. The Preparatory Committee also requested the Secretary-General of the Conference, further to his report contained in document A/CONF.151/PC/62, to submit to the Preparatory Committee at its fourth session a summary of the results of the financial and technical study that the General Assembly had requested the United Nations Environment Programme to conduct, information on the action taken within the framework of the Sahara/Sahel observatory and recommendations on the financial, technical and institutional means of implementing the decisions of the Conference on desertification control.

36. The Preparatory Committee decided to consider at its fourth session the action to be taken on desertification within the general framework of Agenda 21 and that, because of the particular importance of desertification and drought, it should be the first item considered by Working Group I.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on an integrated approach to planning and management of land resources (A/CONF.151/PC/100/Add.15)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on combating deforestation (A/CONF.151/PC/100/Add.16)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on combating desertification and drought: managing fragile ecosystems (A/CONF.151/PC/100/Add.17)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on managing fragile ecosystems: sustainable mountain development (A/CONF.151/PC/100/Add.18)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development (A/CONF.151/PC/100/Add.19)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference containing a compilation of the views of Governments on land resources (A/CONF.151/PC/105)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference containing a compilation of the views of Governments on forests (A/CONF.151/PC/106)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference containing a compilation of the views of Governments on combating desertification and drought (A/CONF.151/PC/110)

Note by the Secretary-General of the Conference transmitting the UNEP report on the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification (A/CONF.151/PC/117)

Report on the activities of the Sahara/Sahel observatory (A/CONF.151/PC/118)

Proposal on forest principles, submitted by the United States of America (A/CONF.151/PC/WG.I/L.20)

Proposal on a non-legally binding authoritative statement of principles for a global consensus on the management, conservation and development of all types of forests, submitted by Ghana, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 (A/CONF.151/PC/WG.I/L.22/Rev.2)

Proposals on a programme for the regulation and conservation of catchment areas in mountainous regions, submitted by Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela (A/CONF.151/PC/WG.I/L.23)

Proposals on guiding principles towards a global consensus for the conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests worldwide, submitted by Canada (A/CONF.151/PC/WG.I/L.24)

Chairman's summary and proposals for action on land resources: desertification and drought (A/CONF.151/PC/WG.I/L.29)

Position paper on forest issues in Agenda 21, submitted by Finland (A/CONF.151/PC/WG.I/L.31)

Position paper on forestry in Agenda 21, submitted by the Netherlands, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Economic Community (A/CONF.151/PC/WG.I/L.32)

Chairman's summary and proposals for action on protection and management of land resources: options for Agenda 21 (A/CONF.151/PC/WG.I/CRP.12/Rev.1)

Chairman's summary and proposals for action on conservation and development of forests (A/CONF.151/PC/WG.I/CRP.13)

Draft on contact group discussions on deforestation, submitted by the Vice-Chairman of Working Group I, Mr. Charles A. Liburd (Guyana) (A/CONF.151/PC/WG.I/CRP.14/Rev.2)

Item 4. Conservation of biological diversity

37. In decision 3/18, the Preparatory Committee requested the Secretary-General of the Conference, without pre-empting or duplicating the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Convention on Biological Diversity, to follow the work of that Committee and to keep that Committee informed of the interconnections between relevant aspects of biological diversity and other environment and development issues as they emerged from the process of the Conference, in particular in the elaboration of Agenda 21.

38. The Preparatory Committee also requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to take into consideration the views expressed at the third session of the Preparatory Committee and the proposals submitted by Governments, in the elaboration of Agenda 21, on the conservation of biological diversity, for consideration at its fourth session and to integrate in those proposals provisions for means of implementation in accordance with Preparatory Committee decision 3/2.

39. The Preparatory Committee agreed that the relationship between biological diversity and biotechnology would be considered in more detail at its fourth session.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on the conservation of biological diversity (A/CONF.151/PC/100/Add.20)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference containing a compilation of the views of Governments on the conservation of biological diversity (A/CONF.151/PC/108)

Chairman's summary and proposals for action on conservation of biological diversity: options for Agenda 21 (A/CONF.151/PC/WG.I/L.28/Rev.1)

Item 5. Environmentally sound management of biotechnology

40. In decision 3/19, the Preparatory Committee requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to take into consideration the views expressed at the third session of the Preparatory Committee and the proposals submitted by Governments, in the elaboration of Agenda 21, on the environmentally sound management of biotechnology, for consideration at its fourth session and also to integrate, in those proposals, provisions for the means of implementation in accordance with Preparatory Committee decision 3/2.

41. The Preparatory Committee agreed that the relationship between biotechnology and biological diversity would be considered in more detail at its fourth session.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on environmentally sound management of biotechnology (A/CONF.151/PC/100/Add.27)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference containing a compilation of the views of Governments on environmentally sound management of biotechnology (A/CONF.151/PC/109)

Proposal on a programme for the generation and transfer of biotechnologies and their sustainable use in the developing countries, submitted by Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Peru, Panama and Venezuela (A/CONF.151/PC/WG.I/L.26)

Chairman's summary and proposals for action on environmentally sound management of biotechnology: options for Agenda 21 (A/CONF.151/PC/WG.I/L.30/Rev.1)

Draft decision on environmentally sound management of biotechnology: options for Agenda 21, proposed by the Chairman (A/CONF.151/PC/WG.I/L.38/Rev.1)

Item 6. Adoption of the report of Working Group I

42. The Working Group will submit a report to the Preparatory Committee.

B. Proposed programme of work of Working Group I

Week of 9-13 March

Monday		
a.m.	Item 1	Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters
p.m.	Item 3 (c)	Land resources: Desertification and drought
		Informal consultations
Tuesday		
a.m.	Item 3 (c)	Informal consultations
Evening	Item 3 (c)	Informal consultations
Wednesday		
p.m.	Item 3 (c)	Informal consultations
Thursday		
a.m.	Item 3 (b)	Land resources: Fragile ecosystems
		Informal consultations
Evening	Item 3 (b)	Informal consultations
Friday		
a.m.	Item 3 (b)	Land resources: Sustainable agriculture
		Informal consultations
p.m.	Item 3 (a)	Land resources: Integrated management
		Informal consultations

Week of 16-20 March

Monday

Evening	Item 3 (a)	Informal consultations

Tuesday

a.m.	Item 3	Land resources: Forest Agenda 21
		Informal consultations
p.m.	Item 3	Informal consultations

Wednesday

Evening	Item 3	Informal consultations

Thursday

a.m.	Item 4	Conservation of biological diversity
		Informal consultations
p.m.	Item 4	Informal consultations

Friday

a.m.	Item 5	Environmentally sound management of biotechnology
		Informal consultations
Evening	Item 5	Informal consultations

Week of 23-28 March

Monday

a.m. and evening	Item 2	Protection of the atmosphere: (a) Climate change (b) Ozone depletion (c) Transboundary air pollution

Tuesday

Evening	Item 2	Informal consultations

Wednesday		
a.m.	Item 2	Informal consultations
Evening		Informal consultations on any outstanding proposals
Thursday		
p.m.		Informal consultations on any outstanding proposals
Friday		
p.m.		Informal consultations on any outstanding proposals
Saturday		
a.m.		Formal meeting to adopt draft proposals on all agenda items and the report of the Working Group

III. PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK OF WORKING GROUP II

A. Provisional agenda of Working Group II

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

2. Protection of the oceans and all kinds of seas, including enclosed and semi-enclosed seas, and coastal areas and the protection, rational use and development of their living resources.

3. Protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources: application of integrated approaches to the development, management and use of water resources.

4. Environmentally sound management of wastes, particularly hazardous wastes, and of toxic chemicals, as well as prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes:

   (a) Environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes;

   (b) Environmentally sound management of solid wastes and sewage-related issues;

   (c) Environmentally sound management of radioactive wastes;

   (d) Environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals;

   (e) Prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes.

5. Adoption of the report of Working Group II.

Annotations

Item 1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

43. By decision 3/24, the Preparatory Committee approved the draft provisional agenda for the fourth session of Working Group II, in accordance with the resolution adopted by the Preparatory Committee at its organizational session, in particular paragraphs 8 and 9 (see A/44/48, para. 56).

44. The Bureau of Working Group II comprises the following officers: Chairman: Bukar Shaib (Nigeria); Vice-Chairmen: Vincente Sánchez (Chile), Joke Waller-Hunter (Netherlands), Andrey Czyz (Poland); and Rapporteur: Hussein Haniff (Malaysia).

Item 2. Protection of the oceans and all kinds of seas, including enclosed and semi-enclosed seas, and coastal areas and the protection, rational use and development of their living resources

45. In decision 3/21, the Preparatory Committee took note of the report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on protection of the oceans, all kinds of seas, including enclosed and semi-enclosed seas, coastal areas and the protection, rational use and development of their living resources and the related options for Agenda 21; requested the secretariat to prepare, for consideration at its fourth session, a compilation document containing the outcome of the discussions on the item and other documents and proposals submitted to the Chairman during the third session; invited Governments to submit to the secretariat any additional comments for inclusion in the compilation document; and requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to submit to the Preparatory Committee at its fourth session revised options for Agenda 21, indicating the origin of proposals when they reflected the results of expert group meetings and taking into account (a) General Assembly resolution 44/228, (b) the debate at the third session and relevant decisions, including decision 3/2 concerning the format and means of implementation of Agenda 21 and (c) the results of the Meeting of Experts on the Degradation of the Marine Environment from Land-based Sources of Pollution and Activities in Coastal Areas, convened by the United Nations Environment Programme.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on protection of the oceans and all kinds of seas, including enclosed and semi-enclosed seas, and coastal areas and the protection, rational use and development of their living resources (A/CONF.151/PC/100/Add.21)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference containing a compilation of the views of Governments on protection of the oceans (A/CONF.151/PC/104 and Add.1)

Draft decision on protection of the oceans and all kinds of seas, including enclosed and semi-enclosed seas, and coastal areas and the protection, rational use and development of their living resources, proposed by the Bureau (A/CONF.151/PC/WG.II/L.18)

Proposal on protection of the oceans and all kinds of seas, including enclosed and semi-enclosed seas, and coastal areas and the protection, rational use and development of their living resources, submitted by Algeria, Colombia, Chile, Mexico, Sweden, Uruguay and Venezuela (A/CONF.151/PC/WG.II/L.24)

Note by the Secretary-General of the Conference transmitting the report on land-based sources of marine degradation and coastal activities (A/CONF.151/PC/113)

Item 3. Protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources: application of integrated approaches to the development, management and use of water resources

46. In decision 3/22, the Preparatory Committee welcomed the report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources and the related options for Agenda 21; requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to submit to it at its fourth session (a) document A/CONF.151/PC/WG.II/L.17 as revised during the informal consultations at the third session and (b) revised options for Agenda 21, taking into account General Assembly resolution 44/228, the debate at the third session and the relevant decisions, including decision 3/2 concerning the format and means of implementation of Agenda 21; and further requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to submit to the Conference the results of the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee with a factual note providing cross-references between those results and the revised options for Agenda 21.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on the application of integrated approaches to the development, management and use of water resources (A/CONF.151/PC/100/Add.22)

Note by the Secretary-General of the Conference transmitting the report of the Conference on Water and the Environment (A/CONF.151/PC/112)

Draft decision on protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources: application of integrated approaches to the development, management and use of water resources proposed by the Bureau (A/CONF.151/PC/WG.II/L.17)

Item 4. Environmentally sound management of wastes, particularly hazardous wastes, and of toxic chemicals, as well as prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes

(a) Environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes

(b) Environmentally sound management of solid wastes and sewage-related issues

(c) Environmentally sound management of radioactive wastes

(d) Environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals

(e) Prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes

47. In decision 3/23, the Preparatory Committee welcomed the reports of the Secretary-General of the Conference on the environmentally sound management of wastes, in particular hazardous wastes, and of toxic chemicals, as well as

on the prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes and the related options for Agenda 21; requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to submit to the Preparatory Committee, at its fourth session (a) documents A/CONF.151/PC/WG.II/L.19 and Add.1-3 as revised during the informal consultations at the third session, (b) revised options for Agenda 21, including options for the prevention, minimization and management of hazardous wastes, indicating the origin of proposals when they reflect the results of expert group meetings and taking into account (i) the debate at the third session and relevant decisions, including decision 3/2 concerning the format and means of implementation of Agenda 21, (ii) the results of the ad hoc meeting of government-designated experts organized by the United Nations Environment Programme, which considered draft elements for a possible international strategy and action programme, including technical guidelines for environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes, and (iii) the results of the ad hoc meeting of government-designated experts convened by the United Nations Environment Programme in association with the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS), which considered proposals for an intergovernmental mechanism for risk assessment and management of chemicals.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes, including prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products (A/CONF.151/PC/100/Add.24)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on environmentally sound management of solid wastes and sewage-related issues (A/CONF.151/PC/100/Add.25)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on environmentally sound management of radioactive wastes (A/CONF.151/PC/100/Add.4)

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals, including prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products (A/CONF.151/PC/100/Add.23)

Draft decision on environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes, proposed by the Bureau (A/CONF.151/PC/WG.II/L.19)

Draft decision on environmentally sound management of solid wastes and sewage-related issues, proposed by the Bureau (A/CONF.151/PC/WG.II/L.19/Add.1)

Draft decision on environmentally sound management of radioactive wastes, proposed by the Bureau (A/CONF.151/PC/WG.II/L.19/Add.2)

Draft decision on environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals and prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes, proposed by the Bureau (A/CONF.151/PC/WG.II/L.19/Add.3)

Item 5. Adoption of the report of Working Group II

48. The Working Group will submit a report to the Preparatory Committee.

B. Proposed programme of work of Working Group II

Week of 9-13 March

Monday

a.m.	Item 1	Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters
p.m.	Item 2	Protection of the oceans and all kinds of seas, including enclosed and semi-enclosed seas, and coastal areas and the protection, rational use and development of their living resources
		Informal consultations

Tuesday

a.m.	Item 2	Informal consultations
p.m.	Item 2	Informal consultations

Wednesday

p.m.	Item 2	Informal consultations

Thursday

a.m.	Item 2	Informal consultations
Evening	Item 2	Informal consultations

Friday

a.m.	Item 2	Informal consultations
p.m.	Item 2	Informal consultations

Week of 16-20 March

Monday

Evening	Item 3	Protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources: application of integrated approaches to the development, management and use of water resources
		Informal consultations

Tuesday		
a.m.	Item 3	Informal consultations
p.m.	Item 4 (d)	Environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals
		Informal consultations
Wednesday		
Evening	Item 4 (d)	Informal consultations
Thursday		
a.m.	Item 4 (a)	Environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes
	Item 4 (c)	Environmentally sound management of racioactive wastes
		Informal consultations
p.m.	Items 4 (a) and (c)	Informal consultations
Friday		
a.m.	Item 4 (b)	Environmentally sound management of solid wastes and sewage-related issues
		Informal consultations
Evening	Item 4 (b)	Informal consultations
Week of 23-28 March		
Monday		
a.m.		Informal consultations on any outstanding proposals
Evening		Informal consultations on any outstanding proposals
Tuesday		
Evening		Informal consultations on any outstanding proposals

Wednesday	
a.m.	Informal consultations on any outstanding proposals
Evening	Informal consultations on any outstanding proposals
Thursday	
p.m.	Informal consultations on any outstanding proposals
Friday	
p.m.	Informal consultations on any outstanding proposals
Saturday	
a.m.	Formal meeting to adopt draft proposals on all agenda items and the report of the Working Group

IV. PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK OF WORKING GROUP III

A. Provisional agenda of Working Group III

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

2. Survey of existing agreements and instruments and its follow-up.

3. Principles on general rights and obligations.

4. Other legal, institutional and related matters, as well as legal and institutional aspects of cross-sectoral issues, including those referred to Working Group III by Working Group I, Working Group II and the plenary of the Preparatory Committee.

5. Adoption of the report of the Working Group.

Annotations

Item 1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

49. By decision 3/30, the Preparatory Committee approved the draft provisional agenda for the third session of Working Group III, in accordance with the resolution adopted by the Preparatory Committee at its organizational session, in particular paragraphs 8 and 9 (see A/44/48, para. 56).

50. The Bureau of Working Group III comprises the following officers: Chairman: Bedrich Moldan (Czechoslovakia); Vice-Chairmen: Oswaldo de Rivero (Peru), Reynaldo Arcilla (Philippines) and Albert Muchanga (Zambia); Rapporteur: John Sloan (Canada).

Item 2. Survey of existing agreements and instruments and its follow-up

51. By decision 3/25, the Preparatory Committee took note of the report of the secretariat of the Conference on the survey of existing agreements and instruments, and criteria for evaluation (A/CONF.151/PC/77); welcomed the expected outcome of its work on agenda item 2, as reflected in annex I to that decision; and requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to compile the necessary background information in accordance with the proposed criteria for evaluating the effectiveness of existing agreements and instruments (annex II), on the basis of a revised list of such instruments (annex III) and in cooperation with the international secretariats or depositaries concerned, as applicable.

52. By decision 3/27, the Preparatory Committee, having taken note of the progress report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on the development of legal instruments for transboundary waters (A/CONF.151/PC/79) and in view of the need to take into account further progress on that matter in the

International Law Commission of the United Nations and in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, as well as the results of the International Conference on Water and the Environment, decided to consider the matter at its fourth session under agenda item 2 of Working Group III.

53. By decision 3/28, the Preparatory Committee, having recalled General Assembly resolution 44/228, in particular subparagraph 15 (w), by which the Assembly decided that the Conference should assess the capacity of the United Nations system to assist in the prevention and the settlement of disputes in the environmental sphere and to recommend measures in that field, while respecting existing bilateral and multilateral agreements that provided for the settlement of such disputes, bearing in mind the interrelationship of environmental policies, development strategies and peaceful cooperation to achieve global sustainable development, having recalled Principle 21 of the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held at Stockholm in June 1972, and having taken note of the proposals contained in documents A/CONF.151/PC/L.29 and A/CONF.151/PC/WG.III/L.1, decided that, at the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee, Working Group III should devote one or two meetings, under agenda item 2, to subparagraph 15 (w) of Assembly resolution 44/228, and requested the secretariat of the Conference, in the evaluation of international agreements in preparation for the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee, to give special attention to the mandate given in that subparagraph.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on the survey of existing agreements and instruments and its follow-up (A/CONF.151/PC/103) and annotated list of existing agreements and instruments (A/CONF.151/PC/103/Add.1)

Progress report of the secretariat of the Conference on the development of legal instruments for transboundary waters (A/CONF.151/PC/79)

Letter dated 19 March 1991 from the head of the delegation of Austria to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at its second session addressed to the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (A/CONF.151/PC/L.29)

Letter dated 26 March 1991 from the head of the delegation of Austria to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at its second session addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (A/CONF.151/PC/WG.III/L.1)

Item 3. Principles on general rights and obligations

54. By decision 3/26, the Preparatory Committee took note of document A/CONF.151/PC/78 and documents submitted by delegations

(A/CONF.151/PC/WG.III/CRP.8, A/CONF.151/PC/83, A/CONF.151/PC/WG.III/L.5, A/CONF.151/PC/WG.III/L.6, A/CONF.151/PC/WG.III/L.16 and A/CONF.151/PC/WG.III/L.17); decided to consider and take appropriate action on document A/CONF.151/PC/WG.III/L.6 at its fourth session; decided to take as a basis for the discussion at the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee the ideas and proposals contained in the above-mentioned documents, in combination with the proposals from delegations contained in documents A/CONF.151/PC/WG.III/L.8 and Add.1, without prejudice to further contributions or proposals to be submitted by national delegations or regional groups after the third session of the Preparatory Committee; and requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to update document A/CONF.151/PC/WG.III/L.8 to incorporate all proposals from delegations and to reflect precisely the state of discussions on it at the end of the third session of the Preparatory Committee in preparation for further deliberations at its fourth session.

Documentation

Draft proposal entitled "Principles on general rights and obligations", submitted by Ghana on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 (A/CONF.151/PC/WG.III/L.6)

Chairman's consolidated draft entitled "Principles on general rights and obligations" (A/CONF.151/PC/WG.III/L.8/Rev.1 and Add.1)

Item 4. Other legal, institutional and related matters, as well as legal and institutional aspects of cross-sectoral issues, including those referred to Working Group III by Working Group I, Working Group II and the plenary of the Preparatory Committee

55. By decision 3/29, the Preparatory Committee took note of the progress reports of the Secretary-General of the Conference on institutions (A/CONF.151/PC/36, A/CONF.151/PC/80) and the comments thereon, and requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to prepare an updated compilation of institutional proposals made during the third session of the Preparatory Committee, including those made in Working Groups I and II and in plenary meetings, as well as relevant observations that might be contained in national reports and originating from regional preparatory Conferences, with a focus on options for action.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on institutional proposals (A/CONF.151/PC/102)

Item 5. Adoption of the report of the Working Group

56. The Working Group will submit a report to the Preparatory Committee.

B. Proposed programme of work of Working Group III

Week of 2-6 March

Monday		
a.m.	Item 1	Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters
p.m.	Item 3	Principles on general rights and obligations
Tuesday		
a.m.	Item 3	Informal consultations
p.m.	Item 3	Informal consultations
Wednesday		
a.m.	Item 3	Informal consultations
p.m.	Item 3	Informal consultations
Thursday		
a.m.	Item 3	Informal consultations
p.m.	Item 3	Informal consultations
Friday		
a.m.	Item 3	Informal consultations
p.m.	Item 3	Informal consultations

Week of 9-14 March

Monday		
Evening	Item 4	Other legal, institutional and related matters, as well as legal and institutional aspects of cross-sectoral issues
Tuesday		
Evening	Item 3	Informal consultations

Wednesday		
a.m.	Item 4	Informal consultations
Evening	Item 3	Informal consultations
Thursday		
p.m.	Item 4	Informal consultations
Friday		
Evening	Item 3	Informal consultations
Saturday		
a.m.	Item 4	Informal consultations
Week of 16-21 March		
Monday		
a.m.	Item 2	Survey of existing agreements and instruments and its follow-up
p.m.	Item 4	Informal consultations
Tuesday		
Evening	Item 2	Informal consultations
Thursday		
Evening	Item 3	Informal consultations
Friday		
p.m.	Item 4	Informal consultations
Saturday		
a.m.	Item 3	Informal consultations
Week of 23-27 March		
Monday		
p.m.	Items 2, 3 and 4	Informal consultations on any outstanding proposals

Wednesday		
p.m.	Items 2, 3 and 4	Informal consultations on any outstanding proposals
Thursday		
a.m.	Item 5	Formal meeting to adopt draft proposals on all agenda items and the report of the Working Group

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